

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

LEGAL TENDER—THE SUPREME COURT DECISION.

From the N. Y. Times.

The recent opinion of the majority of the Supreme Court stands in direct hostility to the uniform tenor of that great series of acts and measures which were required to destroy the Rebellion.

Although the present Chief Justice, who rendered the decision, was not the author of the measure which he now aids to destroy, he yet, as Secretary of the Treasury, was the strenuous advocate of its passage.

From an examination of the Congressional reports for February, 1862, it will appear that it was owing to the urgency of Mr. Chase, in the form of letters, that the bill was suddenly taken from the Committee of Ways and Means and ordered to a vote, after a two-hours discussion.

The grave circumstances of that extraordinary time can scarcely be forgotten. The State banks on the 31st of December, 1861, had very generally suspended specie payments.

The argument in favor of the constitutionality of the legal-tender act lies, as it were, in a nutshell. The power to conduct war carries with it the right to employ all necessary and proper means for achieving success.

In bestowing the power to raise and support armies, the means are not expressed, and in raising the means the situation must be regarded.

The effect of the decision, if allowed to stand, upon the future of the country, if it shall unfortunately be involved in war, will constitute its worst feature.

THE SEMI-CENTENARY OF SUSAN. From the N. Y. World. It is an interesting fact that the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony will occur to-morrow, and it is matter of a still more intimate interest that the day will be celebrated by what in the parishes of New England is known as a "donation visit" at the office of the Revolution.

From the decision pronounced in February, 1869, it would appear that as to recent contracts made payable in coin, judgment will be enforced specifically in coin, and that when made in dollars, generally without specifying the kind of currency, judgment will

be entered for dollars without distinction. Although the latter point did not arise in the case, what fell from the Court will no doubt generally be adopted.

JURY DUTY.

From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

It is easier to point out an existing evil than to prescribe a remedy. Jury trials in some parts of the country have become a disgrace to our system of jurisprudence.

And first, the farces enacted in the jury room, and especially in criminal cases, to which special reference has been made, have not been attributable to the absence from the list, as originally drawn, of all the intelligence and virtue that exist in the community.

But again, and more briefly, the large list of exceptions from jury duty leaves the burden to fall unequally upon the community. Not only freemen and militiamen who have served their term, but some whole professions, are exempt.

We long ago described the difficulty, and suggested several methods of relief. It is perfectly absurd to ask an active business man, whose time is not only money to him, but whose constant attention to his own concerns is absolutely necessary to his success, to leave his own pursuit at his own cost to settle other people's differences.

Let us, then, bring succor to Susan and forward the Revolution. Let the men of America elevate their vision beyond the narrow needs of their own gender and contribute their money. Let the women of America make haste to bring their cake, their work in worsted, their pickles, and their "cold chickens, boiled preferred."

HOW MUCH DELONG IS SHORT. From the N. Y. Tribune. The Hon. Charles E. Delong, of Oregon, is our new Minister Resident at the Court of Japan, at an annual salary of \$7500 in gold.

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has idealized fact. It was the boast of Bonaparte that he could carry on war when his treasury was empty and his army devoid even of stockings.

Delong's matter is of consequence as illustrating a prevalent tendency. All the rest of the horse-leech's daughters sing the same song. It is "more" here, "more" there, "more" everywhere.

So it is not enough that Mr. Fish should, without the shadow of authority of Congress, make a lease of the Bay of Samana at \$100,000 a year in gold, and pay the first year's rent in advance.

One thing is certain—the President cannot with impunity much longer permit the members of his Cabinet to trifle with the public interests as they are doing.

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make farms, build houses, open mines, construct furnaces; and thus add to the national wealth, shall have the first lick at it, in preference to these wandering loafers.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

OFFICE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 25, 1870.

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held on TUESDAY, the 15th day of February, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the Hall of the Assembly Buildings, 5. W. corner of TENTH and OBERLIN Streets, Philadelphia.

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